



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: March 30, 2010 REPORT NO: 10-040

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of April 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board

REFERENCES: CDBG Working Group Report to City Council, September 24, 2009
Report to City Council, November 16, 2009, Report 09-159

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

Recommend that the City Council approve the establishment of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the requested action.

SUMMARY:

The creation of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program citizens advisory board was one of nine recommended reforms presented to the City Council on September 24, 2009. At that meeting the Council approved the board in concept and directed that the advisory board include oversight of all federal grant programs indentified in the City's Consolidated Plan rather than just the CDBG Program. The Consolidated Plan includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program; Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program; HOME Partnership (HOME) Program; and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). Staff was directed to return to the City Council with information and recommendations on the composition of the proposed board.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the proposed Consolidated Plan Advisory Board is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, and City staff on matters related to the City's Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a document required by HUD to be submitted by participating jurisdictions every five years. As part of the 2009 reform package, the City Council affirmed using the Consolidated Plan as the guiding document for setting funding priorities. The Advisory Board functions and duties would include the following:

- Provide advice and recommendations to the Mayor, City Council and City staff on all policy issues relating to the Consolidated Plan and included programs;
- Evaluate and comment on current allocation processes for CDBG and ESG Programs as they relate to the Consolidated Plan;
- Review, interview, and rank proposed applicants or projects to make funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council;
- Track the completion of the goals of the Consolidated Plan and advise on each year's Annual Action Plan;
- Work with the Mayor and City Council to ensure the greatest possible public participation in the creation of the Consolidated and Annual Plans;
- Offer guidance on the goals and objectives to be set;
- Establish a process to ensure that the draft Consolidated and Annual Plans are clearly presented to the public and that comments are received by as great a diversity of non-profit organizations and social service providers as possible; and
- Provide advice and review of policy and proposals as sought by department leaders and other City staff related to programs covered by the Consolidated Plan.

The Board would be made up of nine (9) members who could serve up to two (2) four (4) year terms in accordance with City Charter Section 43. The Mayor would appoint the members from a pool of nominees submitted by the members of the City Council. Members considered for selection may include, but not limited to, representatives of the following areas of interest and expertise: affordable housing; homelessness; disability services; neighborhood revitalization; social services; fair housing; accounting; auditing; economic development; general contracting; legal; non-profit management and low- to moderate-income persons.

In order to ensure that candidates would be able to effectively and ethically serve in light of any foreseeable conflicts of interest, Chairs, Presidents, officers, and employees of an organization funded with the grant funds reviewed by the Board may not be considered for an appointment to the Board. Additionally, a conflict of interest code shall be adopted for the Board, subject to City Council approval and members of the Board would be required to complete and file statements of economic interests in accordance with the City's conflict of interest code.

Once the ordinance approving the establishment of the Advisory Board is adopted, the City Council would be able to start identifying nominees for the Board. It is recommended that the Board be seated in July or August 2010, in order to adequately prepare for the FY 2012 funding cycle, which would allow for time necessary to review the Consolidated Plan goals and priorities.

Respectfully submitted,


 Beth Murray, Deputy Director
 Economic Development Division
 City Planning & Community Investment